

ADDENDUM TO THE FACT SHEET  
FOR STATE WASTE DISCHARGE  
PERMIT NO. ST-8050

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Agron Corporation Processes Facility is located on 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Moses Lake, Washington. This location is in the “old” Air Force Base area. The plant produces onions that are peeled, sautéed, frozen, and packaged for shipment. The onion product consists of two lines: the T-30 and T-50. The T-30 product is cooked with oil (up to 5 percent) and the T-50 does not use oil. To date the facility has not produced the T-30 product line.

Agron has no pretreatment facilities and has not preformed an AKART evaluation to determine what if any changes in wastewater treatment or facility operation may be needed to protect the waters of the State and/or the City’s Larson Wastewater Treatment Facility. When production of the T-30 line occurs, the permittee will evaluate the wastewater discharge from the facility. At this time, if it is determined that the T-30 wastewater must be pretreated, a wastewater treatment facility system will be installed 12 months after the completion of the T-30.

II. APPLICATION REVIEW

An application for permit reissuance was submitted to the Department of Ecology (Department) on October 28, 2005, and accepted by the Department on November 2, 2005. The scope and manner of any review of an application for replacement of permit by the Department shall be sufficiently detailed as to insure the following:

- That the permittee is in substantial compliance with all of the terms, conditions, requirements and schedules of compliance of the expired permit;
- That the Department has up-to date information on the permittee’s production levels; permittee’s waste treatment practices; nature, content, and frequencies of permittee’s discharge; either pursuant to the submission of new forms and applications or pursuant to monitoring records and reports resubmitted to the Department by the permittee; and
- That the discharge is consistent with applicable effluent standards and limitations, water quality standards, and other legally applicable requirements listed in WAC 173-220-130.

The application for Agron Corporation was reviewed and indicates that no changes in the treatment characteristics of the effluent process or volume of wastewater has occurred.

### III. PERMIT REAUTHORIZATION

This fact sheet addendum accompanies the draft permit, which is to be reauthorized to Agron Corporation for the discharge of wastewater to the Larson Wastewater Treatment Facility. The previous fact sheet is also part of this administrative record and explains the basis for the discharge limitations and conditions of the reauthorized permit.

The existing permit requirements, including discharge limitations and monitoring, do not need to be changed to protect the receiving water quality. The previous fact sheet addressed conditions and issues at the facility at the time when the previous permit was issued, and statements made reflected the status in 2003. Since the issuance of the current permit, the Department has not received any information which indicates that environmental impacts from the discharge that were not evaluated at the time of the last permit issuance is persuasive enough to undertake a complete renewal of the permit. The reauthorized permit is virtually identical to the previous permit issued on August 21, 2003.

The discharge limits and conditions in effect at the time of expiration of the previous permit are carried over unchanged to this reauthorized permit. Assessment of compliance and inspections of the facility during the previous permit term indicate that the facility should not be placed on a high priority for permit renewal. The Department assigns a high priority for permit renewals in situations where water quality would materially benefit from a more stringent permit during the next five-year cycle.

The permit reauthorization process, in concert with the routine renewal of high priority permits, allows the Department to reissue permits in a timely manner and minimize the number of active permits that have passed expiration dates. A system of ranking the relative significance of the environmental benefit to be gained by renewing a permit rather than reauthorizing a permit is followed during the Department's annual permit planning process. Each permit that is due for reissuance is assessed and compared with other permits that are also due for reissuance. The public is notified and input is sought after the initial draft ranking has tentatively established which permits are likely to be completely renewed and which are likely to be reauthorized. All relevant comments and suggestions are considered before a final decision is made regarding the type of reissuance for each permit.

The only changes to the previous permit are the submittal date requirements. Submittal requirements from the previous permit that were completed and

submitted and do not require additional or continued assessment were removed from this permit. The submittal dates for the other standard compliance and submittal requirements that have been carried over from the past permit into this reauthorized permit have been adjusted to the proposed permit schedule. The Department considered these submittals necessary in the previous permit and no information has come forward to cause a reconsideration of the submittal requirement.

Public Notice of Application was published on November 25 and December 2, 2005 in the Columbia Basin Herald.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMIT ISSUANCE

The Department proposes that this permit be issued for five years.

## **APPENDIX A – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION**

The Department has determined to reauthorize a discharge permit to the applicant listed on page 1 of this fact sheet addendum. The permit contains conditions and effluent limitations that are described in the fact sheet.

Public notice of application was published on November 25, and December 2, 2005, in *the Columbia Basin Herald* to inform the public that an application had been submitted and to invite comment on the reauthorization of this permit.

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Further information may be obtained from the Department by telephone at (509) 329-3400, or by writing to the address listed above.